

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RIO DE 00489 311508Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EA-09 /020 W
-----311642Z 123798 /45

R 311247Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
SECSTATE WASHDC 4558

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 0489

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, EC, BR (BISSELL, JANE)
SUBJ: W/W JANE BISSELL

REF.: RIO DE JANEIRO 0439

1. CONSOFF INTERVIEWED TWO AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS SISTERS, ELSPETH AND JUDITH TOPPING, WHO HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA SEPARATELY AND TOGETHER FOR PAST FIVE MONTHS. BOTH ACQUAINTED WITH GERALDINE CROUCH AND OTHERS WHO KNEW AND TRAVELLED SAME ROUTE AS JANE BISSELL.

2. ELSPETH TOPPING FIRST MET JANE BISSELL AND GERALDINE CROUCH SEPTEMBER 29, IN MISAHVALLI, ECUADOR. HAD SEVERAL HOUR DISCUSSION WITH THEM SEPTEMBER 30. SAW BISSELL AND CROUCH DEPART VIA BOAT FOR COCA ON SEPTEMBER 30. LATER SAW CROUCH IN QUITO OCTOBER 13 AND IN CUENCA, ECADOR ON OCTOBER 24. BELIEVE CROUCH LEFT CUENCA ON OCTOBER 26, PER REFTEL LAST SAW CROUCH IN EARLY NOVEMBER IN LIMA AT THAT TIME RECALL CROUCH CONTEMPLATING TRIP TO PANAMA TO PURCHASE NEW CAMPING EQUIPMENT AS REPLACEMENT FOR ARTICLES STOLEN IN ECUADOR. ALSO RECALL CROUCH BEING EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED OVER BISSELL DISAPPEARANCE AND OTHER PERSONAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING THEFT OF CERTAIN BELONGINGS AND RECALL CROUCH INTEREST IN JOINING "GOOD FRIENDS" IN U.S. OR RIO OR AUNT IN NEW ZEALAND.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 RIO DE 00489 311508Z

TOPPING SISTERS DO NOT KNOW NAMES OF GOOD FRIENDS IN U.S. OR RIO BUT BELIEVE NON-PICK-UP OF MAIL HERE IS GOOD INDICATION THAT CROUCH HAS NOT YET ARRIVED IN RIO.

3. CONSOFF WENT OVER QUESTIONS OUTLINED FOR CROUCH IN 76 QUITO 8850 AND 76 QUITO 8851 WITH TOPPING SISTERS. BELIEVE TALL, THIN, BEARDED NON-ECUADOREAN TRAVELLING

WITH BISSELL AND CROUCH OCTOBER 1 FROM COCA TO QUITO MIGHT BE NAMELESS NORWEGIAN WHO BOARDED SAME BOAT FROM MISAHVALLI TO COCA ON SEPTEMBER 30. DO NOT BELIEVE IT COULD BE SWEDISH MALE NAMES JAN WHO WAS IN MISAHVALLI SAME TIME BUT RETURNED TO BANOS BY BUS ABOUT OCTOBER 2. BELIEVE SWEDISH MALE MAY BE ONE OF LAST TO SEE BISSELL. JUDITH TOPPING REMEMBERS SEEING SWEDISH MALE IN QUITO EVENING OCTOBER 5 AT GRAN CASINO HOTEL. CANNOT STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT ON THAT DATE SWEDISH CITIZEN MENTIONED DISAPPEARANCE OF AMERICAN GIRL IN BANOS BUT BELIEVES HE DID. DOES RECALL DISCUSSION WITH NEW ZEALAND CITIZEN ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG AT GRAN CASINO HOTEL OCTOBER 7 WHEN ROSEMARY MENTIONED MISSING AMERICAN GIRL WAS FRIEND OF SWEDISH MALE. BOTH TOPPING SISTERS BELIEVE THEY REMEMBER ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG STATING THAT AMERICAN GIRL HAD TOLD SWEDISH MALE, POSSIBLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 3, SHE WAS GOING FOR A WALK ALONE. TOPPING SISTERS THINK SWEDISH MALE HAS RETURNED TO SWEDEN BUT BELIEVE HIS ADDRESS MIGHT BE OBTAINED FROM ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG, 17 HOEY ST, KAMO, WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND (TELEPHONE 51870) OR FROM CANADIAN CITIZEN ROBERT MAJOR, 2282 DENONVILLE, MONTREAL, CANADA (TELEPHONE 766-7452). ALSO, THINK HOME ADDRESS MAY BE IN REGISTER AT GRAN CASINO HOTEL IN QUITO SINCE HOTEL ALWAYS INSISTED ON SUCH INFORMATION FOR ALL REGISTRANTS. BOTH SISTERS DESCRIBE THE SWEDISH MALE AS BLOND, SLIGHT TO AVERAGE BUILD, ABOUT 5 FEET 11 INCHES, BLOND BEARD, NEAT AND CLEAN IN APPEARANCE.

4. OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IS CONVERSATION TOPPING SISTERS BELIEVE SOMEWHAT STRANGE. ON OCTOBER 19 WHILE TRAVELLING IN PICKUP TRUNK WITH FRIEND FROM BANOS TO AMBATA THEY ENCOUNTERED ECUADOREAN ROAD CREW GROUP OUTSIDE BANOS. IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 RIO DE 00489 311508Z

SPANISH, ECUADOREAN WIFE OF FOREMAN REFERRED TO ANOTHER ECUADOREAN MALE IN GROUP AND TOLD GIRLS HE KEEPS WOMEN LOCKED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS. WHEN GIRLS EXPRESSED DISBELIEF, WIFE INSISTED STATEMENT WAS TRUE THOUGH STILL SPOKE IN SOMEWHAT FACETIOUS FASHION.

5. ELSPETH TOPPING MAINTAINS DETAILED DIARY WHICH ACCOUNT FOR EXCELLENT RECOLLECTION OF DATES, NAMES AND PLACES CITED HERETOFORE.

6. NEITHER TOPPING SISTER COULD ANSWER OTHER QUERIES POSED IN QUITO CABLES. HAVE SLIGHT RECOLLECTION OF CHILEAN MALE ACQUAINTANCE OF CROUCH WHO MAY BE NAMED RENALDO AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY POLICE AT AMBATO IN CONNECTION WITH SOME ROBBERY. BELIEVE CHILEAN WAS TALL, THIN AND HAD BEARD.

7. TOPPING SISTERS INTEND SPEND NEXT FEW MONTHS IN RIO AND WILLING COOPERATE IN ANY MANNER POSSIBLE.

DEXTER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RIODE00489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770034-0131
Format: TEL
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977012/aaaaabpt.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e5e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 RIO DE JANEIRO 439
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3507177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W JANE BISSELL
TAGS: CASC, EC, BR, (BISSELL, JANE)
To: SCS QUITO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e5e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009